

Application Serial No. 10/039,999
Date August 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated February 4, 2005

Page 2 of 12

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An interactive computer method for ~~monitoring~~ managing a project, the method comprising the steps of:
defining authorized individuals who have access to an interactive computer system providing electronic data interchange for a project;
opening [a] an electronic collaboration center on the computer system for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on the project;
~~allowing~~ determining in the collaboration center access to the collaboration center by the authorized individual individuals;
defining a collaboration including at least one of a collaboration purpose, a collaboration action plan and a deadline for the project; and
accepting input information at the collaboration center from authorized individuals relating to at least one of the collaboration purpose, the collaboration action plan, and the deadline.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
allowing all authorized individuals to perform at least one of] review, submit, author, and change data and to interact with other authorized individuals electronically in the collaboration center.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
notifying all authorized individuals of a change in at least one of the collaboration center purpose, the deadline, the collaboration action plan, and input information.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
accepting votes of authorized individuals for an at least one element of the collaboration.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
maintaining and displaying the status of each collaboration.

Application Serial No. 10/039,999
Date August 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated February 4, 2005

Page 3 of 12

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
providing the collaboration center with the capability of receiving documents
attached to user responses.
7. Canceled
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
establishing a plurality of information modules to control at least one of
project planning, establishing and tracking project tasks, allowing access to
documents and information in any module, providing issue resolution, reviewing
project progress, tracking project finances, scheduling and attending meetings,
requesting information, reporting project data, controlling changes to prospect
documents and archiving project data.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of:
using electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and the
information modules.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of:
linking allowing each of the information modules to be linked for data
interchange between each module.
11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of allowing access to
documents and information in any module comprises the step of:
assigning status states to each of the documents.
12. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of requesting information
further comprises the step of:
specifying the name of request recipients for defined organization categories.

Application Serial No. 10/039,999
Date August 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated February 4, 2005

Page 4 of 12

13. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of requesting information further comprises the steps of:

- issuing a request for information;
- designating a designated recipient for the request for information;
- providing the designated recipient with the capability of one of replying directly to the request for information, delegating the request for information to a designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly to the request for information; and
- providing the designated recipient with the capability of delegating the request for information to a designated delegate and solely receiving a reply from the designated delegate.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of reviewing project progress further comprises the steps of:

- issuing a request for project data review;
- designating a plurality of designated recipients for the review request; and
- providing for a reply from the plurality of designated review requests by one of in parallel from each designated review recipient and in series from all of the designated recipients.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

- allowing each authorized individual to establish a personal preference for receiving notifications of at least one of input and changes in one of project documents, project tasks, project issues, change requirements, review requests, finance changes, request for information, open collaborations, schedule meetings, and project plans.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of selecting how to receive notifications comprises the step of:

Application Serial No. 10/039,999
Date August 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated February 4, 2005

Page 5 of 12

electing one of receiving notifications by electronic mail, with or without attached documents, and the form of the electronic mail.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of:
sending the notifications to each authorized individual by electronic mail.

18. (Currently Amended) An interactive computer method for monitoring a project, the method comprising the steps of:

defining authorized individuals who have access to an interactive computer system providing electronic data interchange for a project;

opening an electronic collaboration center on the computer system for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on the project;

determining in the collaboration center access to the collaboration center by the authorized individuals; and

establishing a plurality of information modules to control at least one of project planning, establishing and tracking project tasks, allowing access to documents and information in any module, providing issue resolution, reviewing project progress, tracking project finances, scheduling and attending meetings, requesting information, reporting project data, controlling changes to prospect documents[.]; and

establishing a using the collaboration center for planning and resolving a collaboration purposes purpose, and archiving project data.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
using electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and the information modules.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
allowing each authorized individual to establish a personal preference for receiving notifications of at least one of input and changes in one of project

Application Serial No. 10/039,999
Date August 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated February 4, 2005

Page 6 of 12

documents, project tasks, project issues, change requirements, review requests, finance changes, request for information, open collaborations, schedule meetings, and project plans.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the step of selecting how to receive notifications comprises the step of:
electing one of receiving notifications by electronic mail, with or without attached documents, and the form of the electronic mail.
22. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of:
sending the notifications to each authorized individual by electronic mail.
23. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:
allowing all authorized individuals to perform one of review, submit, author, and change data and to interact with other authorized individuals in the collaboration center.
24. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
notifying all authorized individuals of a change in at least one of the collaboration center purpose, deadline, plan, and input.
25. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
accepting votes of authorized individuals to one of the purposes and the plan of the collaboration.
26. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
maintaining and displaying the status of each collaboration.
27. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:
providing the collaboration center with the capability of receiving documents

Application Serial No. 10/039,999

Date August 4, 2005

Page 7 of 12

Reply to Office Action dated February 4, 2005

attached to user responses.

28. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
linking each of the information modules for data interchange between each module.
29. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
allowing access to documents and information in any module; and
assigning status states to each of the documents.
30. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the step of requesting information further comprises the step of:
specifying the name of request recipients for defined organization categories.
31. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the step of requesting information further comprises the steps of:
issuing a request for information;
designating a designated recipient for the request for information;
providing the designated recipient with the capability of one of replying directly to the request for information, delegating the request for information to a designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly to the request for information; and
providing the designated recipient with the capability of delegating the request for information to a designated delegate and solely receiving a reply from the designated delegate.
32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the step of reviewing project progress further comprises the steps of:
issuing a request for project data review;
designating a plurality of designated recipients for the review request; and

Application Serial No. 10/039,999

Date August 4, 2005

Reply to Office Action dated February 4, 2005

Page 8 of 12

providing for a reply from the plurality of designated review requests by one of in parallel from each designated review recipient and in series from all of the designated recipients.

33. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:

allowing each authorized individual to establish a personal preference for receiving notifications of at least one of input and changes in one of project documents, project tasks, project issues, change requirements, review requests, finance changes, request for information, open collaborations, schedule meetings, and project plans.

34. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising the steps of:

providing an electronic mail response capability for at least certain of the requests and notifications issued in any of the information modules allowing an authorized user to respond to the request and notification by direct electronic mail reply; and

the information modules documenting the reply and any documents attached to the reply in the appropriate information module.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:

allowing a user to attach documents to a request and notification.

36. (Currently Amended) An interactive computer apparatus for monitoring the progress of a project, the apparatus comprising:

a computer network with operating software allowing access to project data by authorized individuals using the computer network;

means for defining authorized individuals who are authorized to access the project data on the computer network;

means for creating a an electronic collaboration center for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on the project;

Application Serial No. 10/039,999

Date August 4, 2005

Page 9 of 12

Reply to Office Action dated February 4, 2005

means for ~~allowing~~ determining access to the collaboration center by authorized individuals;

means, in the collaboration center, for defining a collaboration including at least one of a collaboration purpose and a deadline;

means, in the collaboration center, for establishing a plan to meet the collaboration purpose; and

means, in the collaboration center, for accepting inputs from authorized users to one of the collaboration purpose the, plan and the deadline, ~~ever~~ using the computer network.

37. (Original) The computer apparatus of claim 36 further comprising:
the operating software is contained in a central processor accessible by each of a plurality of individual nodes.

38. (Original) The computer apparatus of claim 37 wherein each of the nodes communicates with the central processor via a computer network.

39. (Original) The computer apparatus of claim 37 wherein the computer network uses Internet communication protocol for data communication between the nodes and the central processor.

40. (Currently Amended) An interactive computer apparatus for monitoring the progress of a project, the apparatus comprising:

a computer network with operating software allowing access to project data by authorized individuals using the computer network;

means for defining authorized individuals who are authorized to electronically access the project on the computer network;

means for creating an electronic collaboration center in the computer network for planning the project;

means for establishing and tracking project tasks in the collaboration center;

Application Serial No. 10/039,999
Date August 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated February 4, 2005

Page 10 of 12

means for ~~allowing~~ determining access to project documents and information in the collaboration center;

means for providing issue resolutions in the collaboration center;

means for reviewing project progress in the collaboration center;

means for tracking project finances in the collaboration center;

means for electronically scheduling and attending meetings between authorized individuals in the collaboration center;

means for requesting information in the collaboration center;

means for reporting project data in the collaboration center;

means for controlling changes to project documents and information in the collaboration center; and

means for archiving project data in the collaboration center.

41. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
providing an electronic notepad for each authorized individual to make personal notes about any item of information in the network relating to the project.
42. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising at least one of the steps of:
providing an electronic notepad for each authorized individual to make personal notes about any item of information in the network relating to the project;
compiling an authorized individual's information and tasks, for at least one project; and
providing visual management for critical project areas.